

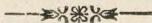
FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE PHILADELPHIA

FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

JANUARY 11, 1838.

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PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY MERRIHEW AND GUNN,
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1838.

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1838

OF THE PHILADELPHIA

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

RECEIVED IN 1838

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J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
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ANNUAL REPORT, &c.



THE rapidly revolving year has again brought us to that period from which we are accustomed to take our annual retrospect. The operations of this Society, during the year 1837, have been marked by no mighty or splendid achievements, and its history is adorned by no thrilling incident, to attract a stranger's attention. But to us it cannot be devoid of interest, and should not fail to yield lessons of instruction. If we should learn from it, that we have been "slothful in business," and "have left undone many things that we ought to have done," let us penitently confess our faults, and resolve to work more diligently in future. If we should find that, by patient and persevering effort, we have accomplished something toward the slave's redemption, or assisted in disseminating righteous principles, let us, in lowliness of heart, acknowledge that we are still "unprofitable servants," having done only that which it is our duty to do.

Allied as we are to the mighty phalanx of those who are contending for a "world's liberty," the retrospect of a year must furnish us many sources of encouragement, for we share with them a common lot; the success of one portion is the prosperity of the whole, and the perils and sufferings of a part are felt by all.

To overthrow an institution which has grown up, to giant size, in the heart of a mighty nation ; which has its foundation in the strongest depraved principles of human nature ; which is surrounded and sustained by the sanctions of law and public opinion, and protected by the suffrage of a false religion ; to destroy and utterly lay waste such an institution, and to do it by moral influence on the minds of the community, is not the work of a day, or a year. Such a work is ours. It can be accomplished only by constant and unwearied effort, day after day, and year after year, by seizing every opportunity to pour a ray of light on the darkened understanding, or a softening influence on the hardened heart, till the mind of the nation is renovated, and the pillars of slavery are removed. And if we do not see the edifice tremble at *our* touch, let us not imagine that we are doing nothing. Already is it deeply undermined, and if we may remove but one of its foundation stones, or accelerate, by one hour, its fall, let us not say, We have labored in vain, or spent our strength for nought.

On examining the records of our Society, we find that, during the past year, more than forty members have joined our ranks, an addition greatly exceeding the average increase of any of the preceding years of the Society's existence. A large proportion of this number was obtained at two public meetings held by the Society, in March and April, when special efforts were made for enlisting new members.

A new measure for the advancement of our cause has this year been adopted by the Female Anti-Slavery Societies of this country, viz.: the holding of an "Anti-

Slavery Convention of American Women." The object of this meeting was to afford the different associations an opportunity of conferring together respecting their modes of operation, and devising plans of united action; and also, that those women of America, whose souls are sickened by the oppressions that are done under the sun, might have an opportunity of together lifting up their voices, in remonstrance and entreaty, in behalf of their brethren and sisters in bonds, and of the eternal principles of justice. A measure so novel, adopted by women, would, of course, excite surprise in many minds, and from some elicit censure. This we expected; for it we were prepared; nor have the editorial rebukes, sarcasm, and ridicule, which have been awarded us, exceeded our anticipations. To calm and manly argument we would have attentively listened, and respectfully replied; but to the coarse invective and rude jesting of which we were the subject, we deem it unfit to oppose sober reasoning, or even serious expostulation. For those, who, for a little hour, found pleasant pastime in such employment, we desire no other recompense than refined tastes, and a clearer conception of the duties and privileges of rational beings. We will not here record their names—they are freely forgiven, as they would have been had their insults or injuries been multiplied a thousand fold. The immediate results of our Convention have been given to the public, and it is needless to recapitulate them. A part of its fruits will probably be seen in the increased number of memorials which will be sent to Congress during its present session. In pursuance of a plan proposed by the Convention, this Society, in the month of June, made

arrangements with the Female Anti-Slavery Society of Pittsburg, to furnish every county in Pennsylvania with memorials to Congress, praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the Territories of the United States, and for the abolition of the slave trade between the States. In that portion of the State allotted to us, (judging from the reports of members to whom it was intrusted,) this work has been performed as thoroughly as our means of action permitted. The number of signatures obtained in Philadelphia exceeds that of the last year by about one thousand. The benefits to the Anti-Slavery cause, arising from this department of our labor, are not to be calculated by the number of signatures appended to our memorials. We do not regard those visits as lost labor, where our request is denied, or that time wasted which is spent in unsuccessful efforts to convince persons of their duty to comply with it. Often, very often, the seed then laboriously sown, falls into good ground, and after a little season springs up, bringing forth fruit, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred fold. Wherever our arguments find a lodgment in the mind, or our expostulations arouse the sympathies of the heart, there a victory (small though it may be) is won for the Anti-Slavery cause. And where no such result of our toil is perceptible, and we go from house to house, sad, and sick at heart with the selfishness, and ignorance, and pride with which we are repulsed, the reflection that we have suggested an important, and, perhaps, new topic of thought and conversation, which will, no doubt, be pursued in some form or other, encourages us to persevere.

The prosperous state of our finances, which will be

shown by the report of the treasurer, demands our grateful acknowledgments to HIM who has liberally supplied us with the means of doing good, and should excite to the accomplishment of greater things in future. Our sale of useful and fancy articles, has been attended with unexpected success, and its pecuniary profits have considerably exceeded those of the sale of the preceding year.

During the past year we have maintained a correspondence with several sister associations in Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. Their letters, informing us of their prosperity, detailing their plans of action, suggesting advice, or exhorting to constancy, have cheered and invigorated us. Intelligence respecting our beloved sisters, SARAH M. and ANGELINA E. GRIMKE, has also been frequently received. The year has been to them, one of trial and arduous labor, in which our hearts have sympathized. On reverting to the expression of our feelings, in regard to these dear coadjutors, contained in our last report, we find that many of our own anticipations respecting them have been realized, and although many have attributed the difficulties of their way, and the opposition which they meet, to the manner in which they have enlarged the sphere of labor at first proposed, in our opinion a large portion of it is the result of hostility to the truth, for which they are so earnestly contending. It is true, that respecting some of their measures, different opinions exist among abolitionists ; but these measures have been adopted by themselves, and for them none are responsible but those who have chosen to become so, by endorsing them. Approval of the course which they have pursued has already been expressed by a majority of this Society, and published in the "National Enquirer," and the "Liberator."

In our review of the past year, we cannot pass in silence an event which has made 1837 a most memorable year in the history of abolitionism in America; an event that so deeply concerns every Anti-Slavery Association, that it may well be interwoven with its own history. The murderous blow which has bereaved us of a beloved brother and valiant coadjutor, was levelled not at him alone, but at the foundation of civil and religious liberty; at the inalienable right of free discussion, and, therefore, at every Anti-Slavery Society in the land. The martyrdom of the lamented LOVEJOY is a fearful revelation of the triumphs of the "dark spirit of slavery," over our republican institutions. It should alarm every American who values those institutions, and arouse his mighty energies for their preservation. We do not doubt that those all-potent influences, which elicit good from evil, will make this sad catastrophe conducive to the establishment of the truth it was designed to destroy; and though it may be the commencement of a "reign of terror," in which the truth of our principles may be again and again attested with blood, we know that the powers of darkness shall at length be vanquished by the invincible strength of truth.

"For thus it is for ever. Man may raise
His arm against his brother, and the ax
Fall heavily and frequent, and the cord
Be prodigal of life—the dagger grow
Dark red with midnight murder, in the vain
And idle hope to fetter human thought,
And cross the will of heaven;—and every blow
In persecution dealt, shall be returned
Back on the giver—every instrument
Of foul oppression change unto an aid
Of that which it had threatened."

It is to us a source of very deep regret, that in the hour of peril, our beloved brother did not more closely follow the example of Him who "was led as a lamb to the slaughter," and who, when legions of angels were at his command, "resisted not evil." We should have deemed it a cause of devout thanksgiving, and joyous triumph, had our first martyr fallen, armed only with the "whole armor of God;" having his "feet shod with the preparation of the *gospel of peace*." Oh! had he fallen as a disciple of Christ should have fallen, with his last words blessing his persecutors, and his fervent supplications for their forgiveness borne upward, with his ascending soul, to heaven; then, with our sorrow for our bereavement, and our country's loss, would have been mingled unalloyed rejoicing for our martyred brother. But the mournful fact, that in this respect he deviated from the path of christian duty, furnishes no excuse for the dreadful outrage on his liberty and life, and they who, on this account, are speaking peace to his murderers, will do well to take heed that they are not found conniving at sin. The voice of his blood is crying from the ground, and amid its thousand tones of warning to a slumbering church, and guilty nation, we may hear a call to greater diligence in a work, which, if accomplished by peaceful measures, must be done quickly. We trust that the lessons taught us by the sad scenes at Alton, have not been learned in vain. We feel that they demand of us a new individual consecration to the Anti-Slavery cause; that they require of us a new pledge of fidelity to its interests; and above all, a solemn pledge that we will seek the advancement of those interests by measures which will not violate the commands of

our Savior: "Recompense to no man evil for evil;" "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also;" "Overcome evil with good;" "Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath." If the deliverance of the American captive cannot be effected by such means, then is it not a work whereunto christians are called. We believe that it can be so effected, and in the prosecution of our work, continually meet with evidence that in limiting his servants to the use of pacific measures in promoting His cause, "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God stronger than men."

If we need incentives to commence the new year with increased zeal and activity, let us contemplate awhile the present situation of the slave. To him the year has passed heavily away. Each day and night has witnessed his burning tears and bitter anguish. Beneath the summer sun he has toiled through the long day, but not to enrich himself, or to shed the light of gladness around his home; and when the unrequited task was finished, lonely, desolate, and heart-broken, he has returned to his hut to gaze in tearful silence on the places which once knew his loved ones, but now will know them no more for ever. Bereaved of his dearest earthly treasures, but not by death, where shall he look for comfort? To him, that source of comfort, the Bible, is sealed; its hallowed pages afford him no relief. It may be that influences which are not of earth have illumined and purified his soul, and taught him to derive consolation from the things which are not seen, and are eternal, or it may be that he knows nothing of such sources of peace. Does he not often,

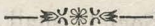
with a wishful eye, and anxious heart, turn, in his sadness, toward the North? He has heard that there he has friends who are toiling for his redemption, in whose daily prayers he is remembered, and in whose hearts he holds a brother's place. Oh! could his voice reach us, with what thrilling pathos would he tell of his thirstings for liberty, and of his fondly cherished hopes that deliverance will arise for him from among us. Will not the remembrance that we have excited such hopes, urge us onward in our efforts to gratify them? What those efforts will cost us, we know not. Over our future pathway, hang clouds which our eyes may not penetrate. But, wherever that path may lead, we trust that we shall be enabled cheerfully to tread it, heedless of sacrifice or suffering, if thereby we may

“Speed the moment on
When Wrong shall cease, and Liberty and Love
And Truth and Right throughout the earth are known
As in their home above.”

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.				The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, in Account with M. Forten, Treasurer.				CR.	
1837.				1837.					
Jan.	To cash	paid for Pennsylvania Hall stock,	\$400	Jan.	By balance in the treasury,		\$114	81½	
		for five copies of the Liberator,	10		annual subscriptions,		85	25	
Feb.		for rent of Temperance Hall for		Feb.	collection at public meeting,		27	2	
		meetings,	12 50	April	collections made for purchasing Penn-				
		for printing Annual Report,	12 53		sylvania Hall stock,		203		
March		for rent of Adelphi hall for meeting,	10 50		collection at public meeting,		17	28	
April		do. Temperance Hall do.	6		annual subscriptions,		36	35	
May		to A. S. Convention of Women, on		1838.	Subscription for A. S. Record,		2		
		account of our pledge,	25	Jan.	Cash received from managers of the A.				
June		to City and County A. S. Society,			S. sale.		459	18	
		on account of our pledge,	70		contributions and donations during the				
		for printing memorials,	18		year,		96	83½	
Nov.		to Messrs Burleigh and Gunn, for			sale of Anti-Slavery tracts,			78	
		the expenses of their voyage,	50						
Dec.		to Junior A. S. Society,	20						
		for Facts for the People and Alton							
		Observer,	9						
		for lighting and cleaning Sandiford							
		Hall,	1 75						
		to M. Moore for articles furnished							
		for last year's sale,	1						
1838.		for postage,	4						
Jan.		to City and County A. S. Society,							
		on account of our pledge,	60						
		to balance in the Treasury,	332 23						
			1042 51				1042	51	

CONSTITUTION
OF THE PHILADELPHIA
FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.



WHEREAS, more than two millions of our fellow countrymen, of these United States, are held in abject bondage ; and whereas, we believe that slavery and prejudice against color are contrary to the laws of God, and to the principles of our far-famed Declaration of Independence, and recognising the right of the slave to immediate emancipation ; we deem it our duty to manifest our abhorrence of the flagrant injustice and deep sin of slavery, by united and vigorous exertions for its speedy removal, and for the restoration of the people of color to their inalienable rights. For these purposes, we, the undersigned, agree to associate ourselves under the name of "THE PHILADELPHIA FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY."

ARTICLE I.

The object of this Society shall be to collect and disseminate correct information of the character of slavery, and of the actual condition of the slaves and free people of color, for the purpose of inducing the community to adopt such measures, as may be in their power, to dispel the prejudice against the people of color, to improve their

condition, and to bring about the speedy abolition of slavery.

ARTICLE II.

Any female uniting in these views, and contributing to the funds, shall be a member of the Society.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and Librarian, who, with six other members, shall constitute a Board of Managers, to whom shall be intrusted the business of the Society, and the management of its funds. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be laid before the Society, at each stated meeting. They shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their number, till the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and shall have power to call special meetings of the Society and of the Board.

ARTICLE V.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in her absence.

ARTICLE VI.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Society, and notify all meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

The Corresponding Secretary shall keep all communications addressed to the Society, and manage all the correspondence with any other bodies or individuals, according to the directions of the Society or of the Managers.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions and grants to the Society, make payments according to its directions, and those of its Managers, and present an audited report at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX.

The Librarian shall take charge of all books and pamphlets belonging to the Society, and conform to the rules prescribed by the Society, for the management of the library.

ARTICLE X.

The Managers shall meet once a month, or oftener if necessary, on a day fixed by themselves, and stated meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Fifth-day in every month.

ARTICLE XI.

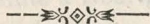
The annual meeting shall be held on the second Fifth-day (Thursday,) of the First month (January,) at which time the reports of the Board and Treasurer shall be presented, and the officers for the ensuing year elected.

ARTICLE XII.

It is especially recommended that the members of this Society should entirely abstain from purchasing the products of slave labor, that we may be able consistently to plead the cause of our brethren in bonds.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Constitution may be altered at any stated meeting, by the vote of two-thirds of the members present, notice having been given at a previous meeting.



OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

PRESIDENT,
SARAH PUGH.

VICE PRESIDENT,
ANNA M. HOPPER.

RECORDING SECRETARY,
SARAH M. DOUGLASS.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
MARY GREW.

TREASURER,
MARGARETTA FORTEN.

MANAGERS,

LUCRETIA MOTT,
LYDIA WHITE,
SARAH FORTEN,

MARY NEEDLES,
GRACE DOUGLASS,
SUSAN HAYDOCK.

The meetings of the Society are held on the second Thursday of every month, at Sandiford Hall, Haines Street, between Sixth and Seventh, Arch and Race Streets.